

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**Ken McQueen**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Matthias Sayer**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Heather Riley, Division Director**  
Oil Conservation Division



Administrative Order SWD-1696-A  
October 12, 2018

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
OF THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8(B) NMAC, Mesquite SWD, Inc. (the "operator") seeks an administrative order for its Mesa Verde SWD Well No. 3 ("proposed well") with a location of 1030 feet from the South line and 2635 from the West line, Unit N of Section 13, Township 24 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico, for the purpose of commercial disposal of produced water.

This proposed salt water disposal well's location was selected with collaboration from OXY USA, Inc, to not interfere with future development in the vicinity. As a result, the proposed salt water disposal well is within 10 feet of a governmental unit boundary.

This Order approves a request for an increase in tubing size and supersedes Division Order SWD-1696 issued on October 20, 2017.

**THE DIVISION DIRECTOR FINDS THAT:**

The application has been duly filed under the provisions of Division Rule 19.15.26.8(B) NMAC and satisfactory information has been provided that affected parties as defined in said rule have been notified and no objections have been received within the prescribed waiting period. The applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that all requirements prescribed in Rule 19.15.26.8 NMAC have been met and the operator is in compliance with Rule 19.15.5.9 NMAC.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The applicant, Mesquite SWD, Inc. (OGRID 161968), is hereby authorized to utilize its Mesa Verde SWD Well No. 3 (API 30-015-44676) with a location of 1030 feet from the South line and 2635 from the West line, Unit N of Section 13, Township 24 South, Range 31 East, NMPM, Eddy County, for disposal of oil field produced water (UIC Class II only) through an open-hole interval consisting of the Devonian and Silurian formations from 16620 feet to approximately 17820 feet. Injection will occur through internally-coated, 5½-inch or smaller tubing inside the 7⅞-inch liner and a packer set within 100 feet of the top of the open-hole interval.

*This permit does not allow disposal into the Ellenburger formation (lower Ordovician) or lost circulation intervals directly on top and obviously connected to this formation.*

*Prior to commencing disposal, the operator shall submit mudlog and geophysical logs information, to the Division's District geologist and Santa Fe Bureau Engineering office, showing evidence agreeable that only the permitted formation is open for disposal including a summary of depths (picks) for contacts of the formations which the Division shall use to amend this order for a final description of the depth for the injection interval.*

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

The operator shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the disposed water enters only the approved disposal interval and is not permitted to escape to other formations or onto the surface. This includes the completion and construction of the well as proposed in the application and, if necessary, as modified by the District Supervisor or the Bureau of Land Management.

*The operator shall circulate the cement behind the casing to surface for all surface and intermediate casings.*

*The operator shall run a CBL (or equivalent) across the 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch liner from 500 feet above the liner to the bottom of the liner to demonstrate a good cement across to demonstrate a good cement across the liner and good cement bond across the 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch casing.*

*If significant hydrocarbon shows occur while drilling, the operator shall notify the Division's District II and the operator shall be required to receive written permission prior to commencing disposal.*

*Within two years after commencing disposal, the operator shall conduct an injection survey, consisting of a temperature log or equivalent, over the entire injection interval using representative disposal rates. Copies of the survey results shall be provided to the Division's District II office and Santa Fe Engineering Bureau office.*

After installing tubing, the casing-tubing annulus shall be loaded with an inert fluid and equipped with a pressure gauge or an approved leak detection device in order to determine leakage in the casing, tubing, or packer. The casing shall be pressure tested from the surface to the packer setting depth to assure casing integrity.

The well shall pass an initial mechanical integrity test ("MIT") prior to initially commencing disposal and prior to resuming disposal each time the disposal packer is unseated. All MIT procedures and schedules shall follow the requirements in Division Rule 19.15.26.11(A) NMAC. The Division Director retains the right to require at any time wireline verification of completion and packer setting depths in this well.

Without limitation on the duties of the operator as provided in Division Rules 19.15.29 and 19.15.30 NMAC, or otherwise, the operator shall immediately notify the Division's District I office of any failure of the tubing, casing or packer in the well, or of any leakage or release of

water, oil or gas from around any produced or plugged and abandoned well in the area, and shall take such measures as may be timely and necessary to correct such failure or leakage.

If the disposal well fails a MIT or if there is evidence that the mechanical integrity of said well is impacting correlative rights, the public health, any underground sources of fresh water, or the environment, the Division Director shall require the well to be shut-in within 24 hours of discovery and the operator shall redirect all disposal waters to another facility. The operator shall take the necessary actions to address the impacts resulting from the mechanical integrity issues in accordance with Division Rule 19.15.26.10 NMAC, and the well shall be tested pursuant to Rule 19.15.26.11 NMAC prior to returning to injection.

The wellhead injection pressure on the well shall be limited to **no more than 3324 psi**, but may be modified by the Division Director following the completion of the initial Step-Rate Test. In addition, the disposal well or system shall be equipped with a pressure limiting device in workable condition which shall, at all times, limit surface tubing pressure to the maximum allowable pressure for this well.

The Director of the Division may authorize an increase in tubing pressure upon a proper showing by the operator of said well that such higher pressure will not result in migration of the disposed fluid from the target formations. Such proper showing shall be demonstrated by sufficient evidence including but not limited to an acceptable Step-Rate Test.

The operator shall notify the supervisor of the Division's District II office of the date and time of the installation of disposal equipment and of any MIT so that the same may be inspected and witnessed. The operator shall provide written notice of the date of commencement of disposal to the Division's District II office. The operator shall submit monthly reports of the disposal operations on Division Form C-115, in accordance with Division Rules 19.15.26.13 and 19.15.7.24 NMAC.

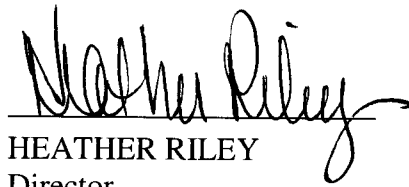
The injection authority granted under this order is not transferable except upon Division approval. The Division may require the operator to demonstrate mechanical integrity of any injection well that will be transferred prior to approving transfer of authority to inject.

The disposal authority granted herein shall terminate on October 20, 2019, if the operator has not commenced injection operations into the subject well. One year after the last date of reported disposal into this well, the Division shall consider the well abandoned, and the authority to dispose will terminate *ipso facto*. The Division, upon written request mailed by the operator prior to the termination date, may grant an extension thereof for good cause.

Compliance with this Order does not relieve the operator of the obligation to comply with other applicable federal, state or local laws or rules, or to exercise due care for the protection of fresh water, public health and safety and the environment.

Jurisdiction is retained by the Division for the entry of such further orders as may be necessary for the prevention of waste and/or protection of correlative rights or upon failure of the

operator to conduct operations (1) to protect fresh or protectable waters or (2) consistent with the requirements in this order, whereupon the Division may, after notice and hearing, terminate the disposal authority granted herein.



HEATHER RILEY  
Director

HR/prg

cc: Oil Conservation Division – Artesia District Office  
Bureau of Land management – Carlsbad Field Office  
Well file 30-015-44676